February 14, 2017

HCAD Offers Business Personal Property Rendition Help

Houston — The Harris County Appraisal District (HCAD) has begun the process of mailing personal property rendition forms to businesses known to have been operating in Harris County during 2016.

The appraisal district is offering free workshops to help business owners complete the required personal property rendition forms before the April 17 filing deadline. The deadline is usually April 15, but because that date falls on a Saturday this year, the deadline is extended until Monday, April 17.

If you own tangible personal property that is used to produce income, you must file a rendition with the Harris County Appraisal District by April 17. A rendition is a report that lists all the taxable personal property you owned or controlled on Jan. 1 of this year. Personal property includes inventory and equipment used by a business such as furniture and fixtures, supplies, raw materials, and business vehicles, vessels and aircraft.

Six rendition workshops have been scheduled throughout the county.   Participants can attend at any time during the scheduled hours and typically will be able to complete the process in about an hour. There is no charge to attend.

Workshops will be conducted at the following locations:

- Wednesday, March 1   1 p.m. to 5 p.m.
  Galena Park ISD Administrative Bldg., 14705 Woodforest Blvd., Houston
- Wednesday, March 22   1 p.m. to 5 p.m.
  Julia C. Hester House, 2020 Solo St, Houston

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- Wednesday, March 29   1 p.m. to 5 p.m.
  HCAD Offices, 13013 Northwest Freeway, Houston – 6th floor
- Wednesday, April 5   1 p.m. to 5 p.m.
  Tom Bass Community Center, 15108 Cullen Blvd., Houston
- Saturday, April 8   8 a.m. to Noon
  HCAD Offices, 13013 Northwest Freeway, Houston – 6th floor
- Wednesday, April 12   1 p.m. to 5 p.m.
  HCAD Offices, 13013 Northwest Freeway, Houston – 6th floor

Those who attend will be able to consult individually with appraisal district staff who will explain personal property taxation and rendition requirements and will answer questions about completion of the rendition forms.

"These workshops are part of our continuing goal to educate business and property owners on the appraisal process. These sessions have been very successful in the past and have helped business owners complete their renditions on the spot," said HCAD Chief Appraiser Roland Altinger. "These workshops are designed to help business owners easily understand the rendition and personal property taxation requirements."

All business owners are required to file renditions whether or not they have received notification.   Businesses that fail to render or that render late are subject to a 10 percent tax penalty. Filing a fraudulent rendition carries a 50 percent penalty if found guilty.

State law permits business owners to obtain an automatic extension of the filing requirement by submitting a request in writing by the original April 15 deadline. The extended deadline for such businesses would then be May 15.

A rendition form is available on the appraisal district's website at www.hcad.org under the "Forms" tab along with information on the rules of the process.

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Business owners with questions about the rendition requirements are encouraged to attend any of the workshop sessions or call the appraisal district's Information Center at 713.957.7800.

About HCAD

The Harris County Appraisal District is a political subdivision of the State of Texas established in 1980 for the purpose of discovering and appraising property for ad valorem tax purposes for each taxing unit within the boundaries of the district. The district has more than 1.8 million parcels of property to assess each year with a total market value of approximately $556 billion. The appraisal district in Harris County is the largest in Texas, serving approximately 500 taxing units, and one of the largest appraisal districts in the United States. For further information, visit www.hcad.org.

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